

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Entry of the above amendments is courteously requested in order to place all claims in this application in allowable condition and/or to place the non-allowed claims in better condition for consideration on appeal.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

Paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action

Claims 40 through 42 and 57 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shelton (US Pat 5,345,501).

Claims 40 through 42 and 57 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and therefore the §102(b) rejection of claims 40 through 42 and 57 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Office Action

Claims 16 through 22, 24 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton (US Pat. 5,345,501) in view of Ross (US Pat. 5,720,157) and further in view of Becker (US Pat. 5,808,289).

Claims 16 through 22, 24 and 25 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and therefore the §103(a) rejection of claims 16 through 22 and 25 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraph 9 of the Office Action

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton (US Pat. 5,345,501) in view of and further in view of Ross (US Pat. 5,720,157) further in view of Becker (US Pat. 5,808,289) and further in view of Barrus et al. (US Pat. 5,465,291).

Claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice and therefore the §103(a) rejection of claim 23 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraph 10 of the Office Action

Claims 43 through 45 and 50 through 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton (US Pat. 5,345,501) as applied to claim 40 above.

Claims 43 through 45 and 50 through 56 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and therefore the §103(a) rejection of claims 43 through 45 and 50 through 56 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraph 11 of the Office Action

Claims 47, 48, 55 and 56 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton (US Pat. 5,345,501) in view of Barrus et al. (US Pat. 5,465,291).

Claims 47, 48, 55 and 56 have been cancelled, without prejudice, and therefore the §103(a) rejection of claims 47, 48, 55, and 56 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraph 12 of the Office Action

Claims 49 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shelton (US Pat. 5,345,501) in view of Becker (US Pat. 5,808,289).

Claim 49 has been cancelled, without prejudice, and therefore the §103(a) rejection of claim 49 is submitted to be moot.

Paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Office Action

Claims 1 through 15, 26 through 39, and ~~47 through~~ ²⁵ 54 have been allowed, and with the cancellation of claims 16 through ~~15~~ ²⁵, 40 through 46, and 55 through 57, the application is submitted to be in condition for allowance.

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE:

In the Claims (bracketed parts deleted and underlined parts added):

Claims 1 through 15 have been allowed. ✓

Cancel claims 16 through 25 without prejudice. ✓

Claims 26 through 39 have been allowed. ✓

Cancel claims 40 through 46 without prejudice.


Claims 47 through 54 have been allowed.

Cancel claims 55 through 57 without prejudice.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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